



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 16, 2018

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street North West
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As the renegotiation and updating of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) continues, I am writing to underscore the significance of Minnesota's economic ties with Canada and Mexico – our state's two largest export markets. NAFTA has unquestionably enhanced market access and contributed to the success and growth of Minnesota's manufacturers and agricultural producers.

Minnesota's economy benefits greatly from our export relationship with Canada and Mexico. Canada is by far Minnesota's largest international destination for Minnesota goods. In 2016, approximately \$4.1 billion or 21 percent of the state's total exports went to Canada. At \$2.3 billion, Mexico is Minnesota's second largest export destination and represented 12.2 percent of total exports in 2016. Approximately 120,000 jobs across the state are supported by Minnesota's total exports of goods, and an estimated 40,000 of these jobs support exports to our NAFTA partners.

The importance of these partnerships to our agricultural sector cannot be overstated. Minnesota agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico reached a combined total value of \$1.6 billion in 2016. Major export commodities to Canada and Mexico include corn, pork, dairy, beef, poultry and eggs, soybeans, feed, and processed food. Mexico is Minnesota's second largest agricultural export market with an export value of \$992 million, or 14 percent market-share. Canada is Minnesota's fourth largest agricultural export market at \$589 million, or 8 percent market-share.

I encourage you to consider the benefits of NAFTA to Minnesota and hope renegotiations result in a positive outcome to preserve and expand market access, reinforce and build upon our existing ties, and create future opportunities to strengthen our integrated North American economy.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to preserving and reinforcing our partnerships with our North American neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton
Governor